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Message Text

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64
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 AGR-05 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00

DLOS-04 OES-03 CU-02 HEW-02 (ISO) W
---------- 051666
R 012330Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9218
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION GENEVA
USUN NEW YORK 1031

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, ECONWN MX
SUBJECT: CLUB OF ROME MEETS IN GUANAJUATO

REF: (A) STATE 131276; (B) ROME 8672; (C) MEXICO 6361

1. SUMMARY: CLUB OF ROME, LED BY ITS PRESIDENT AURELIO PECCEI, HELD THREE-DAY MEETING JULY 24-26 IN PICTURESQUE MEXICAN COLONIAL CITY OF GUANAJUATO. THEME WAS "SOLIDARITY FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT" AND BACKGROUND FOR DISCUSSIONS PROVIDED IN PART BY "MANKIND AT THE TURNING POINT: THE SECOND REPORT OF THE CLUB OF ROME," BOOK BY MESAROVIC AND PESTEL. WHILE CLOSED SESSIONS WERE REPORTEDLY MOST USEFUL, OPEN MEETINGS AND EXTENSIVE PRESS COVERAGE FOCUSED ON THIRD WORLD CONFRONTATION WITH DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, NEED TO IMPLEMENT CERDS AS BASIC DOCUMENT NIEO, AND SOMETIMES SHARP CRITICISM BY GOM OFFICIALS OF CLUB OF ROME AS PARTIAL TO DEVELOPED WORLD. PRESS CITICISM INCLUDED ASIDE BY ONE COLUMNIST THAT CLUB OF ROME MEMBERS ENJOYING PANTAGRUEL'S FEASTS WHILE DISCUSSING
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PROBLEMS OF WORLD HUNGER. THERE IS SOME INDICATION

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THAT MEXICANS, WHO MADE SUBSTANTIAL OUTLAY IN THEIR ROLE AS HOST, MAY HAVE BEEN UPSET AT FAILURE TO CONVERT MEETING INTO THE THIRD WORLD CONFRONTATION INCREASINGLY FAMILIAR OF LATE IN INTERNATIONAL FORA. END SUMMARY

2. WITH THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT ACTING AS HOST, THE CLUB OF ROME HELD A THREE-DAY MEETING IN THE COLONIAL CITY OF GUANAJUATO, MEXICO DURING JULY 24-26. HEADING THE CLUB OF ROME GROUP WAS ITS PRESIDENT, DR. AURELIO PECCEI. CO-HOSTS FOR THE EVENT WERE GOVERNOR OF GUANAJUATO LUIS DUCOING, AND UNDER SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS RUBEN GONZALES SOSA. SECRETARY OF THE PRESI-DENTCY HUGO CERVANTES DEL RIO REPRESENTED PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, WHO IS ON A 40-DAY THIRD WORLD TOUR, AT THE INAUGURATION.

3. PRINCIPAL THEME OF THE MEETING WAS "SOLIDARITY FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT," WITH THE BOOK "MANKIND AT THE TURNING POINT: THE SECOND REPORT OF THE CLUB OF ROME" BY MESAROVIC AND PESTEL, PROVIDING PARTIAL BACKGROUND FOR DISCUSSIONS. INDIVIDUALTOPICS DISCUSSED UNDER THIS GENAXWU
IF
VE#INCLUDED FOOD SHORTAGES (WHICH RATED EXTENSIVE PRESS PLAY), POLLUTION, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECHEVERRIA CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES (CERDS), PROBLEMS IN THE INTER-NATIONAL ECONOMY (INCLUDING MONETARY REFORM), AND LAW OF THE SEA. MEETING CONCLUDED WITH THE "DECLARATION OF GUANAJUATO" (EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED COPY AND IS POUCHING DEPARTMENT).

4. DECLARATION IS RATHER THIN IN CONTENT, AND CONTAINS FEW SURPRISES. SKIRTS QUESTION POPULATION CONTROL (THOUGH CERTAIN MEMBERS INCLUDING MEXICO'S VICTOR URPUIDI HIT HARD AT THIS NEED), FAILS TO RECOGNIZE THAT BIG FOOD CONSUMERS ARE ALSO BIGGEST PRODUCERS, AND CRITICIZES MALDISTRIBUTION OF WORLD INCOME WITHOUT NOTING THAT PROBLEM ENDEMIC INSIDE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES. AIM OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DECLARATION IS "TO ENCOURAGE GOVERNMENTS AND INTER-NATIONAL AGENCIES TO ADVANCE THEIR AWARENESS" OF PROBLEMS OF HUMAN NEEDS, CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL NO LESS THAN MATERIAL, AND THE FULL DEVELOPMENT OF THE POTENTIALS OF ALL MEN.

5. HEART OF DECLARATION IS "THE UNQUESTIONABLE RIGHT OF EVERY INDIVIDUAL BORN ON THE PLANET THAT HE SHOULD HAVE

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A BASIC MINIMUM LIVING STANDARD," REQUIRING RENEWED
EFFORTS IN AGRICULTURE, HOUSING, EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND
OTHER FUNDAMENTAL NEEDS. DECLARATION NOTES WITH
APPROVAL SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION UNGA APPROVAL OF NEW
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND "URGES ALL STATES TO
GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF
COOPERATION, INCLUDING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
CHARTER OF THE ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF
STATES (CERDS)."

6. ACCORDING TO SOME OF OUR CONTACTS FROM
WESTERN EUROPEAN EMBASSIES (E.G. THE AUSTRIAN
CHARGE), PRIVATE, TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS AMONG
CLUB OF ROME MEMBERS AND INVITED GUESTS WENT
VERY WELL, AND WERE MOST USEFUL. THE BELGIAN
AMBASSADOR NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT MEMBERS STUCK TOGETHER
WHICH MAY HAVE HAD A SALUTARY EFFECT ON THE THIRD WORLD INVITEES.
IT WAS REPORTED TO US THAT THE BRITISH DELEGATE CARRIED AWAY
A CERTAIN FEELING OF RESENTMENT, THINKING THAT
THE MEETING HAD BEEN "OVERSOLD" TO THE UK.
AUSTRIAN CARDINAL KOENIG WHO ATTENDED AS OBSERVER
TOLD AUSTRIAN CHARGE THAT MEETING PROVIDED USE-
FUL EXCHANGE OF IDEAS BUT LITTLE IN WAY OF
CONCRETE RESULTS. MEMBERS TOOK MEXICAN THIRD
WORLD RHETORIC IN STRIDE.

NOTE BY OCT: #TEXT AS RECEIVED.

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 AGR-05 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00

DLOS-04 OES-03 CU-02 HEW-02 /107 W
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R 012340Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9219
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

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7. REACTION WAS MIXED TO PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY
SOME GOM OFFICIALS, NOTABLY UNDER SECRETARY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS RUBEN GONZALEZ SOSA, WHO INTER
ALIA CRITICIZED CLUB OF ROME AS BIENG TOO
ORIENTED IN DIRECTION OF DEVELOPED WORLD. DURING
COURSE OF HIS REMARKS, GONZALEZ SOSA REPORTEDLY INSITED CERDS
NOT ONLY COMPARED WITH THE HOLY BIBLE AND
DAS KAPITAL AS GREAT MORAL FORCE BUT ALSO CARRIED JURIDICAL WEIGHT
IN INTERNATIONAL LAW (SIC). IN SEVERE CRITICISM OF CLUB OF
ROME ORIENTATION, GONZALEZ SOSA CHARGED THAT
CLUB WAS CONCERNED ABOUT PLIGHT OF THE WEAK
NATIONS, PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE OF THE TROUBLE THIS MIGHT CAUSE
THE DEVELOPED WORLD. HE WAS ALSO HIGHLY CRITICAL OF COMPUTER
TECHNIQUES USED BY CLUB OF ROME, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS
ASEPTIC AND IMPERSONAL. IN HIS SPEECH, HE INCLUDED
STANDARD RHETORIC ON NIEO AND BOOSTED CERDS AS ITS
MOST PRACTICAL MANIFESTATION. GONZALEZ SOSA ALSO CALLED
FOR AN END TO "PATERNALISM" AND "ARROGANCE." PRIVATE
REACTION AMONG WESTERN EUROPEANS TO GONZALEZ SOSA REMARKS
RANGED FROM ANNOYANCE TO "WHAT ELSE COULD YOU EXPECT?."
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THERE WAS SOME FEELING THAT MEXICAN OFFICIAL IN HIS
SHARPER CRITICISMS HAD STRAYED FROM HIS ROLE AS HOST
OF THE EVENT. IN CONTRAST, INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY
SECRETARY OF PRESIDENCY CERTANTES DEL RIO WAS MORE
POSITIVE IN TONE, AND GENERALLY WELL RECEIVED.

8. PERHAPS TO COUNTERACT CRITICISMS AIMED AT ABSENCE
PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA(HE HAD, AFTER ALL, INVITED CLUB
OF ROME TO MEXICO), WORD WAS PASSED TO CLUB MEMBERS
THAT PRESIDENT HAD AT LEAST ON TWO OCCASIONS INQUIRED OF
SENIOR GOM OFFICIALS AS TO MEETING'S PROGRESS.

9. SOME MEMBERS (E.G. THE GERMANS) WERE DISPLEASED WHEN
DECLARATION OF GUANAJUATO WAS ISSUED WITHOUT FULL
CLEARANCE, WHICH WAS REPORTEDLY EXPLAINED AWAY BY
DR. PECCEI ON BASIS LACK OF TIME. DR. PECCEI WAS
QUOTED IN THE NEWSPAPERS AS HAVING MADE SOME FAIRLY
UNPLEASANT REMARKS ABOUT US POLICY IN CUBA AND VIETNAM.
HE EXPLAINED THIS AWAY, ACCORDING TO ONE DIPLOMATIC
SOURCE, AS SOMETHING HE OWED TO MEXICO AS HOSTS.
ITALIAN REPORTEDLY EXPLAINED REFERENCES TO NIEO AND
CERDS AS RESULT MEXICAN FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO

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GUANAJUATO MEETING, AN EXPLANATION WHICH DID NOT MEET WITH MUCH APPROVAL AMONG THOSE WHO HEARD IT.

10. MEXICAN PRESS TO SOME EXTENT TOOK ITS LEAD FROM GONZALEZ SOSA, AND SEVERAL HIGHLY-CRITICAL COLUMNS APPEARED IN NEWSPAPERS. ONE CHARGED THAT CLUB OF ROME WAS DILETTANTE ORGANIZATION FOUNDED BY CAPITALIST-ORIENTED GROUP, ANOTHER QUESTIONED CLUB'S AWARENESS OF THIRD WORLD DESPERATION, AND A THIRD ACCUSED CLUB OF HOLDING PANTAGRUEL'S FEASTS WHILE DEPLORING WORLD HUNGER. ON THE OFFICIAL SIDE, THERE IS SOME INDICATION THAT THE MEXICANS, DESPITE MENTION OF CERDS IN FINAL DECLARATION, MAY HAVE BEEN DISAPPOINTED THAT RESULTS WERE NOT MORE CONFRONTATIONAL AND THIRD WORLD-ORIENTED, ALONG LINES WHICH HAVE BECOME FAMILIAR TO US OF LATE IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES.

11. EMBASSY COMMENT: WE WERE MILDLY PLEASED THAT CLUB OF ROME MEETINGS WERE NOT AS SUSCEPTIBLE TO THIRD WORLD
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MANIPULATION AS WE HAD FEARED. ON THE OTHER HAND THE MEETING DID NOT PRODUCE MUCH IN THE WAY OF NEW IDEAS TOWARD A SOLUTION TO PROBLEMS OF PEACE, SOLIDARITY, AND DEVELOPMENT. MENTION OF NIEO AND CERDS, WHILE NOT TOTALLY UNEXPECTED, DID LITTLE TO ADD TO INTELLECTUAL CONTENT OF FINAL DOCUMENT. IT IS NOT LIKELY, WE THINK, THAT THIS MEETING WILL BE REMEMBERED AS ONE OF THE MORE SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS OF THE CLUB FO ROME.
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